

Structural Pest Control Section • Division of Plant Industry

Georgia Department of Agriculture

Compliance Fact Sheet

Minimum Treatment Standards for Wood Destroying Fungi

This fact sheet is for structural pest control operators and technicians. It provides guidance on how to comply with Rule 620-6-.04(4) minimum adequate treatment for control or prevention of wood destroying fungi in the Rules of the *Georgia Structural Pest Control Act*. These rules were amended April 1, 2014.

When does the rule apply?

The rule requires specific control standards for the control or prevention of wood destroying fungi when infestation is located in a crawlspace.

What are the minimum standard requirements?

- Installation of a **vapor barrier** to a minimum ground surface area of 70% of the total exposed soil surface and
- **Inspection** and **correction** of crawlspace ventilation according to the International Residential Building Code for One and Two Family Dwellings, the latest edition as adopted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.

What are the additional minimum standard requirements for water conducting fungi?

- Cut all visible rhizomorphs
- Scrape visible fungal growth from foundation walls
- Remove all wooden contacts between buildings and inside crawl space soil
- Inspection and correction of minimum clearance between wood and soil in the crawl space of 18 inches

Can an *Official Waiver* form be issued for the minimum standards?

No. The *Official Waiver* form is for subterranean termite treatment standards only.

What if correction of minimum clearance between wood and soil in the crawl space of 18 inches is not possible?

In this situation, you should document the condition on the diagram of the structure and include a justification statement on the contract. The statement must explain in detail what areas of the structure do not meet the standard and why it is not possible to meet these standards.

Note: this only applies to water conducting fungi and does not apply to other minimum treatment standards.

What is an approved vapor barrier?

The vapor barrier must be a Class I vapor retarder. A Class I vapor retarder has a permeance level of 0.1 perm or less and is considered impermeable. The perm rating is a measure of the diffusion of water vapor through a material. Any material that has a perm rating of 1 or less is considered to be an adequate vapor retarder for residential construction. The industry standard is a polyethylene material of 4-6 mil which complies with a Class I vapor retarder.

What if the vapor barrier is currently installed?

If the vapor barrier is already installed and meets the requirements, then no action is required.

What are the ventilation options that comply with the ventilation standards?

Refer to [SPCS 14-08 Under-floor space Ventilation Fact Sheet](#).

Should a contract be issued?

Yes. A written contract to the property owner or owner's agent covering the control or prevention of wood destroying fungi in the structure is required. The contract must be issued according to the WDO Contract Rule 620-6-.02. Refer to [SPCS 14-04 WDO Contracts Fact Sheet](#).

Online Resources

[Laws & Regulations](#)

[Residential Building Code for ventilation](#)
[Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission](#)

Also posted at www.agr.georgia.gov/structural

If further assistance is needed, contact the Structural Pest Control Office or an inspector at (404) 656-3641 or inspection@agr.georgia.gov

The Georgia Structural Pest Control Commission and Georgia Department of Agriculture have issued this guidance document to help pest management professionals comply with the Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act. This document does not include all regulatory requirements. Refer to the complete Rules of the Georgia Structural Pest Control Act for all rules and regulations.

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